

REMARKS

In light of the above amendatory matter and remarks to follow, reconsideration and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested.

Applicants believe all of claims 1-18, as filed, are patentably distinct over the prior art and are allowable. Nevertheless, in an effort to expedite the prosecution of the present application to its successful conclusion, the subject matter of claim 5, which the Examiner found to be allowable, has been added to claim 1; and claim 5 is canceled. Thus, claims 1-4, 6 and 7 are in condition for allowance.

Additionally, claim 8, which the Examiner also found to be patentably distinct over the prior art, has been rewritten in independent form. Thus, claims 8-10 are in condition for allowance.

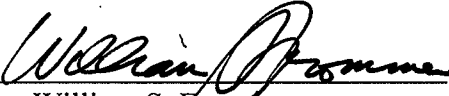
The subject matter of claim 12, which the Examiner found to be allowable, has been added to claim 11; and claims 12 and 13 are canceled. Thus, claims 11 and 14-18 are in condition for allowance. In addition, claim 11 is amended to remove the ambiguity noted by the Examiner.

Therefore, claims 1-4, 6-11 and 14-18 remain in this application and are presented in allowable form. The issuance of the Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Please charge any fees occasioned by this paper, and credit any overpayments, to our
Deposit Account 05-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP
Attorneys for Applicants

By: 
William S. Frommer
Reg. No. 25,506
Tel. (212) 588-0800